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Executive Director



The State of Washington  
**COMMISSION ON ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS**

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*Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans*

**Executive Director's Report**  
**Western Washington University Viking Union Room 565**  
**516 High Street, Bellingham, WA 98225**  
**October 4, 2008**

1. **CAPAA's Financial Report will be reported** by the Small Agency Client Services (SACS), to include the CAPAA 09-11 budget. Michelle Salinas will give the report.
2. **State's Economy** – the state has currently over \$500 million in reserves. In the next biennium 2009-11, the projected expenditures exceed projected revenues by over \$3 billion dollars.
3. **Website Enhancement** – we are currently working with the Office of the Minority Women's Business Enterprise (OMWBE), as to the script of the Certification process that will be included in our website. In the future we are looking at translations of the process in Chinese, Vietnamese and Chinese languages...
4. **EDUCATION: ETHNIC COMMISSION ACHIEVEMENT GAP STUDY**  
**Legislative Mandate-**
  - \* 2SHB 2722- Center for the Improvement of Student Learning (CISL) in the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction; Commission on African American Affairs (CAA).
  - \* HB 2687
    - Sec. 131: Commission on Hispanic Affairs (CHA)
    - Sec. 119 ( 1&2): Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (CAPAA)
    - Sec. 118 (2): Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA)
    - Sec. 501 (1) (aa): Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction
  - Analysis: Similarities
  - \* Recommend a comprehensive plan for closing the achievement gap pursuant to goals Under the federal NO Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act.
  - \* Identify performance measures to monitor adequate yearly progress (AYP).
  - \* Conduct and analyze starting with the Call to Action paper by the multi-ethnic think Tanks and as guided by appropriate groups.

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**Agency Overview**

The CAPAA was established by the state legislature in 1974 to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) by insuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas. It has a board made up of 12-governor appointed members that represent the diverse APA communities of Washington State.

- \* A study update shall be submitted by September 15, 2008.
- \* A final report shall be submitted by December 30, 2008.

Our researchers, Dr. Shirley Hune, leading the study on the Asian American students, And Dr. David Takeuchi, leading the study on the Pacific Islander students, have submitted their first report on September 15, 2008. I am providing you with a copy of the reports as presented by Chris Alejano, Governor's office on September 25, 2008 to the board members of the Governor's Interagency Coordinating Council on Health Disparities. They are hoping to do an analysis of the Washington State Educational Data system. The data will be obtained from OSPI. They will also incorporate other educational data such as:

Seattle Public Schools educational data, which will provide Asian American Data from six subgroups and data on one Pacific Islander group, Samoans.

-High School and Beyond, that will provide useful data on the attitudes and behavior of Pacific Islander students in Washington State. They will also do an Asian American and Pacific Islander teacher survey, which is in its final refinement and is being field tested by several teachers before being provided to WEA for distribution.

## **5. Health Care- The Governor's Interagency Coordinating Council on Health Disparities**

Held its board meeting on September 25, 2008. Since health and education are so closely associated, it is important for the Council to be aware of this important and parallel piece of Work to be completed by December 2008. The Council received an initial briefing on the academic achievement gap studies at its May 29 meeting.

A panel discussion on language access followed. According to RCW 43.20.275 (3), the Council has the responsibility to:

"...Assess through public hearings, review of existing data, and other means, and recommend initiatives for improving the availability of culturally appropriate health literature and interpretive services within public and private health-related agencies". To date, the Council has initiated a number of activities toward the goal of developing recommendations including: (1) contracting with the Cross Cultural Health Care Program to conduct focus groups and interviews to understand and assess the availability of culturally and linguistically appropriate health education materials, (2) convening the Public Forum on Language, Culture, and Health Care on September 19, 2007 in Tumwater, (3) organizing a community meeting focus group with Spanish-speaking individuals in Tacoma, (4) convening the Community Forum on Health Equities on May 28, 2008 in Tacoma, and (5) seeking input through public input surveys.

## **6. Immigration Forum on June 30, 2008-**

Immigration sweeps in the state has impacted the Asian American community. The number of deportation cases in our region has gone up to over 40% from last year. Around 9,000 individuals are being processed through the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma each year, and ICE and the contractor that runs the facility recently announced that they will Be expanding the facility's capacity to over 50% later this year. One key aspect of the raids issue is the impact of immigration enforcement not only on the people detained but the Children and family members, many of them are U.S. citizens left behind.

CAPAA held an Educational Immigration Forum on June 30, 2008 in collaboration with the Beacon United Methodist church and the International Drop-in Center. Speakers at the forum were: Representative Phyllis Kenney, King County Director of Senator Maria Cantwell Camino and Immigration analyst, Stephen Yim, Asst. Chief of Police Nick Metz of the City of Seattle, and Executive Director Jorge Baron of Northwest Immigration Rights Project.

A meeting with Scott Heinze of the Governor's office, myself, Uriel Iniguez of the Hispanic American Commission, and Jorge Baron is being scheduled. Phillip Sit and Alicia Luna had a tour of the facility at the Northwest Detention Center.

7. Census 2010 –

I have been meeting with the Office of Financial Management, Irv Lefberg, Theresa Low, and Peter Antolin, about the state's involvement in Census 2010. I have requested for a proclamation of Governor Gregoire to support and encourage participation in 2010 Census. There will be another meeting with the Census Bureau on October 6 with the ethnic commissions' directors and state agencies regarding the state's participation.